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Introduced by
Representatives Mason, Ableser, Miranda B, Pancrazi: Barto, Chabin,
Farley, Goodale, Jones, Reagan

A CONCURRENT MEMORIAL

URGING THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES TO AWARD PURPLE HEARTS TO VIETNAM VETERANS WHO WERE EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 To the Congress of the United States of America:

2 Your memorialist respectfully represents:

3 Whereas, following the Vietnam War, veterans who returned to the United
4 States faced opposition and injustice on various fronts. Instead of being
5 welcomed home as heroes who risked their lives to serve their country, they
6 were mistreated by a public that blamed them for the unpopular war, denied
7 veterans' benefits from the federal government and not recognized as true
8 veterans of foreign wars by veterans' groups; and

9 Whereas, today, many Vietnam veterans have serious health issues that
10 are directly related to their exposure to Agent Orange during their service
11 in Vietnam. The Veterans' Administration has recognized these conditions as
12 caused by being in Vietnam during that time; and

13 Whereas, awarding Purple Heart status to these veterans falls under the
14 "friendly fire" provisions of the federal guidelines for awarding this
15 prestigious honor; and

16 Whereas, by virtue of the definition and criteria of the Purple Heart
17 award, Vietnam veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and who now have a
18 health issue related to that exposure should receive a Purple Heart to award
19 them the recognition, respect and honor they fully deserve.

20 Wherefore your memorialist, the House of Representatives of the State of
21 Arizona, the Senate concurring, prays:

22 1. That the United States Congress enact legislation providing for the
23 awarding of a Purple Heart for any Vietnam veteran who is suffering serious
24 health issues as a result of exposure to Agent Orange.

25 2. That the Secretary of State of the State of Arizona transmit copies
26 of this Memorial to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of
27 the United States House of Representatives and each Member of Congress from
28 the State of Arizona.